



## Forest Service News Release

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### Forest Publishes Climbing Management Plan Story Map Website

**Hamilton, MT, April 30** — The Bitterroot National Forest (BNF) has published a Story Map entitled “The Development of a Climbing Management Plan” to provide an information hub for those interested in climbing management on the forest as well as to track the progress of climbing management plan (CMP) development. The Story Map content was built with input from numerous interested people within the local community and represents the beginning of the process for developing a CMP. Once completed, the plan will ultimately describe the desired condition for responsible climbing activities across the forest, considering the need for maintaining recreation access while also providing for appropriate cultural and natural resource protections.

Last November, the BNF requested feedback via Story Map submissions from members of the community. It is the desire of the forest that the CMP be built by the community so that it reflects the conservation and recreation values held by all those affected by climbing management. To view the “Developing a Climbing Management Plan” Story Map, visit <https://arcg.is/r1qW5>.

The intent of using the Story Map application is to provide an opportunity to initiate the process and a preliminary point for conversations leading into the development of a CMP. Additionally, the purpose of the information contained in the Story Map is a start to defining the issues, providing a means for an inclusive, collaborative process where members of the public can assist in highlighting issues the forest may have overlooked, and provide recommendations for management solutions.

“I’m really appreciative of all the help that we’ve had from the community in putting this Story Map together,” said Steve Brown, Stevensville District Ranger. “It has been a lot of work and is exciting to see it all come to fruition. I’m confident that it will help us to get through the CMP development process smoothly and efficiently.”

There will be more opportunities beyond the Story Map for members of the public who want to participate and provide input during the planning process. To get involved or for more

information about the CMP, contact [SM.FS.BRFClimbing@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.BRFClimbing@usda.gov) or call the Stevensville Ranger District at (406) 777-5461.

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